Saugerties Democratic Committee 27 November 2018 Meeting Minutes

**Song:** Masters of War, Bob Dylan

**Roll Call:** Margo McGilvrey, Christine Dinsmore, Kathy Gordon, Connie Bailey, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, John Schoonmaker, Mike Cimorelli, Rick Cousin, Kevin Freeman, Finley Schaef, Nancy Schaef, Pam Ross, Lanny Walter, Nejla Liias, Tim Scott, Chris Allen, Kathleen Grey

Non-members: Loel Barr, Arzi McKeowen, Louise Bloomfield, Susan Breene, Mike MacIsaac, Kathryn Smith

**Approval of October Minutes:** Seconded byKathy Gordon and approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The report was read by the Chair who said the full report would be given by the Treasurer, Margo McGilvrey, at a later date. He noted that we raised $4,100 in fundraiser, and that, thanks to the generous contributions received, the final cost to the Committee for the Headquarters Office was only $45.

**Election Recap:** Kat Smith (Pat Strong Campaign) expressed her appreciation to Saugerties in particular. Finley Schaef expressed how important it was to have the Headquarters. Kathy Gordon commented on how impressive the number of volunteers we had was. She also recounted the difficulty dealing with the national campaign staff.

The Chair recommended reading The Soul of America, by John Meachem, whose thesis is that the present era is not the first time we find ourselves confronted by a time where popular sentiment has turned downward. He noted that he had purchased copies for Antonio Delgado and Juan Figueroa. Chris Allen moved that the Chair be reimbursed; seconded by Nancy Schaef and approved unanimously.

**Building for the Future:**

**Committee Vacancies:** Kathryn Smith and Susan Breene volunteered to become Committee Members.

Kathryn Smith: She was Deputy Campaign Manager for Pat Strong, and had worked on Gareth Rhodes’ campaign. She is new to Saugerties and currently lives in Glasco. (Born and raised in Texas). She is a practicing attorney.

Susan Breene: From NYC and still has a home in Queens, and has always had property in Saugerties. She is a former teacher and High School Principal. She also taught at the college level for six years in Ulster. She also currently lives in Glasco (District 8).

Louise Bloomfield: She has a home in NYC and currently lives off of Blue Mountain Road. Her background is as an editor and teacher and in electronic publishing. She currently has domestic demands that would limit her ability to contribute time as a full Committee Member. It was moved by Mike Harkavy and seconded by John Schoonmaker that Louise be admitted as an Associate Member. The motion passed unanimously and she was assigned to Election District 16.

Mike Cimorelli moved to admit Susan and Kathryn as members of the committee; seconded by Christine Dinsmore and unanimously approved.

**Reinforcing Standing Committee Reports**

The Chair began this discussion by noting that participation on these committees affords members a way to be engaged in issues that they care about. This is also a way to build the Committee, so he asked for any who are interested to step forward.

Local Campaign Coordinating Committee: Current members are John Schoonmaker, Lanny Walter, Mike Harkavy, and Kathy Gordon.

Search Committee: By May we need to understand who we desire for County Legislature. The Search Committee will find and encourage people to run, to interview them, and recommend them to the County Committee for nomination in early June. Also, Town Candidates are up for reelection (Mike MacIsaac, Lee Ann Thornton). There are also other Town offices that could have a Democratic Candidate.

Voter Data Committee: Led by Kathy Gordon, could use assistance.

Fundraising Committee: Has been very successful. The Chair raised the prospect of a Holiday Party. Nejla Liias invited all to her New Years Eve Party.

Program Committee: Currently, Christine Dinsmore is the only member and she would like help. Connie Bailey, Kathryn Smith and Margo McGilvrey volunteered.

Publicity Committee: Also chaired by Christine Dinsmore. Includes Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

**Issues to Be Supported in 2019**

Liaison with Sheriff’s Office: Susan Breene, Mike Cimorelli and Nancy Schaef expressed interest.

Liaison with Antonio Delgado: Kevin Freeman noted that he is meeting with Delgado on December 3 and would be willing to work to that end. Nejla has asked him to hold a Town Hall meeting but as yet has not had a response.

Immigrant Defense: Connie Bailey noted that there is a coat and sock collection underway for the immigrant community and she is having a drop-off location at the Hudson Valley Dessert Company.

County Legislature Coordinated Campaign: Either form a committee or join another and keep us informed. The discussion evolved into sharing our experience and structure for the election with other County Committees. Connie Bailey suggested compiling a list of notes of items and actions that were successful and this would be helpful.

(Kathy Gordon related a move to try to employ a canvassing technique, Deep Listening Canvassing, which has been reputed to be the only method that changes minds. She will be attending a meeting that focuses on this.).

Nejla Liias summarized the value of members working on separate issues and bringing it back to the group, and the added benefit of Committee activities furthering the presence and identity of the Committee in the community.

**Announcements:**

The Reis Mural has a plaque that will be dedicated Nov 28 at 3:30.

Ulster Immigrant Defense Network event this Sunday, December 2, at 3 pm, at Holy Cross Santa Cruz in Kingston. K-9 Roll has been filled and the handler assigned.

Ulster People for Justice and Democracy is sponsoring an event at the Rosendale Recreation Center on December 3 at 6 o’clock to address voter justice. Andy Falk will present.

On Dec 4 at 7:30, there will be a Rise Above Racism vigil organized by Jewish Voices for Peace at City Hall in Kingston.

Skip Arthur talked about the Campaign for New York Health, Dec 16 3-5 pm in New Paltz. He will attend. Now that we have a Democratic Senate in NYS, perhaps we can move it forward. He said he will coordinate transportation to the meeting and will provide a flier for the Secretary to distribute.

Nancy Schaef recounted the investigation of the action of the County Committee against Elliot Auerbach. He never signed a paper saying he would never repeat that behavior, but was publicly supporting a Republican candidate in Syracuse the day of the County Committee Breakfast. He has since resigned as a County Committee Member.

Christine Dinsmore offered a hat-tip to Dave Gordon for all of his work and support during the campaign and the appreciation was supported all present.

**Town issues:** (John Schoonmaker) The budget was passed and it was slightly lower than last years. Secured a $300,000 grant to repair the Ice Rink roof. The town did not recive grant for a gazebo at the Maldin Waterpark, but looking at other avenues. The town also missed a large grant for the animal shelter due to delays from contractor but the groundwork has been laid for another try, and it is a very ambitious grant.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Pamela Ross and seconded by John Schoonmaker. Unanimously approved.

Recorded: Bill Barr, Secretary